

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing multimedia message service (MMS) interoperability between a first mobile telephone service provider and a second mobile telephone service provider; comprising:

receiving an MMS message from a the first mobile telephone service provider;

querying a telephone number portability database that identifies a corresponding mobile telephone service provider for each of a plurality of telephone numbers to determine an identity of a the second mobile telephone service provider to which the MMS message is intended to be sent;

querying a carrier profile repository to access a carrier profile for the second mobile telephone service provider, the carrier profile including information regarding an MMS format acceptable to the second mobile telephone service provider;

transcoding the MMS message in accordance with the carrier profile to generate a transcoded MMS message; and

sending the transcoded MMS message to the second mobile telephone service provider.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first mobile telephone service provider is an MMS message initiating carrier.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second mobile telephone service provider is an MMS message destination carrier.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising preliminarily determining whether the step of transcoding is necessary.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the carrier profile repository contains carrier profiles for a plurality of carriers.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for providing multimedia message service (MMS) interoperability between an initiating mobile telephone service provider and a destination mobile telephone service provider, comprising:

receiving an MMS message from ~~an~~ the initiating mobile telephone service provider;  
querying a number portability database that identifies a corresponding mobile telephone service provider for each of a plurality of telephone numbers to determine an identity of a the destination mobile telephone service provider to which the MMS message is intended to be sent;  
querying a carrier profile repository to access a carrier profile for the destination mobile telephone service provider, the carrier profile including information regarding an MMS format acceptable to the destination mobile telephone service provider;  
determining, based on the carrier profile and a format of the MMS message received from the initiating mobile telephone service provider, whether the format of the MMS message received from the initiating mobile telephone service provider must be modified to be effectively

received by a subscriber of the destination mobile telephone service provider and, if so, transcoding the MMS message in accordance with the carrier profile to generate a transcoded MMS message; and

sending one of (i) the MMS message received from the initiating mobile telephone service provider and (ii) the transcoded MMS message to the destination mobile telephone service provider; and

when the destination mobile telephone service provider cannot accept the received MMS message as is, and after a weighted iteration through entries in the carrier profile for the destination mobile telephone service provider, sending a short message service (SMS) message to the destination mobile telephone service provider.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the carrier profile repository contains carrier profiles for a plurality of carriers.

8. Canceled

9. Cancelled.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising sending an email to the destination mobile telephone service provider to alert an intended recipient of a received MMS message.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising delivering the MMS message to a legacy system belonging to the destination mobile telephone service provider.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for providing multimedia message service (MMS) interoperability between an initiating carrier and a destination carrier, comprising:

a transcoding facility comprising means for receiving an MMS message from ~~an~~ the initiating carrier;

a number portability database, in communication with the transcoding facility and configured to determine an identity of a the destination carrier to which the MMS message is intended to be sent;

a carrier profile repository also in communication with the transcoding facility and configured to access a previously-stored carrier profile for the destination carrier, the carrier profile including information regarding an MMS format acceptable to the destination carrier;

the transcoding facility configured to determine, based on the carrier profile and a format of the MMS message received from the initiating carrier, whether the format of the MMS message received from the initiating carrier must be modified to be effectively received by the destination carrier and, if so, to transcode the MMS message in accordance with the carrier profile to generate a transcoded MMS message, and thereafter send one of (i) the MMS message received from the initiating carrier and (ii) the transcoded MMS message to the destination carrier, and further configured to, when the destination carrier cannot accept the MMS message received as is from the initiating carrier and after iterating through entries in the carrier profile,

send a Short Message Service (SMS) message to an intended recipient of the MMS message when the MMS message cannot be delivered as received from the initiating carrier.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the MMS message is originated from a mobile telephone.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second carriers are mobile telephone service providers.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the MMS message is originated from a mobile telephone.

16. Canceled

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the MMS message is originated from a mobile telephone.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the initiating and destination carriers are mobile telephone service providers.